(b) whether it is also a fact that women officers, who put in 12 years of service in the Army, get a lower pay scale than their male counterparts with six years of service;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the measures Government propose to take to remove gender based discrimination in pay scales and other matters?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The defence officers are entitled to retiring pension after 20 years of qualifying service. Since the maximum tenure of Women Officers in Short Service Commission is only 14 years, they are not eligible for pension. However, women permanent commission officers in the Medical, Nursing and Dental Services of the Defence Forces are entitled to pension on completion of stipulated period of service. Granting of permanent commission to women officers in other Arms and Services is being examined by the Chiefs of Staff Committee.

(b) to (d) Pay scale of an officer is decided based on substantive rank held. Short Service Commission women officers in the Army do not get a lower scale of pay compared to similarly placed Short Service Commission men officers. As per a recent decision of the Government, both women and men officers appointed in Short Service Commission in the Army will get Captain, Major and Lieutenant Colonel scales after 2,6 and 13 years of reckonable service respectively.

Gallantry Awards during World Wars

†197. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the British Government had given gallantry awards for meritorious services during First and the Second World Wars;

(b) if so, whether these gallantry awards are being given in the form of allowance, in cash, to the legal heirs of the recipients of said awards;

(c) if so, the number of recipients of such gallantry awards and the amount being spent by the Ministry of Defence on the same;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) whether his Ministry has received any proposal for increasing the amount of gallantry awards; and

(e) if so, whether it is proposed to be increased from Rs. 100 to Rs. 1000?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) As per the available records, with the Army Headquarters, approximately 8,676 gallantry awards were given to Indians in First and Second World Wars and, at present, about Rs. 20 lakhs is being spent annually.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) There is no Pre-Independence gallantry award with monetary allowance of Rs. 100 per month.

Recruitment of ladies

198. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether ladies are recruited in the military in the country;

(b) if so, their number in each rank and force and the role assigned to them *vis-a-vis* their male counterparts;

(c) whether pay and amenities packages awarded to lady officers are much less than the men;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(e) whether such reported discrimination, exploitation and lack of security for women within the force are generating a lot of resentment among them; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to improve the service conditions and pay packages for women in the force?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Statement is attached (*See* below).